

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 2-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application and claims 2-6 are amended. No new matter is added. Thus, claims 2-17 are currently pending in the application.

The above amendments and the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action mailed September 30, 2003. In this Office Action claims 7-17 were allowed and claim 2 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter; the Abstract was objected to; and claims 1, 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 2-6.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract was objected to in the outstanding Office Action. Applicant has provided a replacement Abstract that meets the requirements of the MPEP. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 And 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 1 and the amendment of claims 3-6 to depend on claim 2.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, but was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 2 has been amended to independent form and to include all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant's amendment of claim 2 overcomes the objection to claim 2. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of claim 2.


Conclusion

Applicant's amendment and remarks have overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action dated September 30, 2003. Specifically, Applicant's replacement Abstract overcomes the objection to the Abstract. Applicant's cancellation of claim 1 and amendment of claims 3-6 overcomes the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicant's amendment to claim 2, placing this claim in independent form, overcame the objection to this claim. Accordingly, claims 2-6 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests consideration and allowance of claims 2-6. Claims 7-17 were allowed.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees, which may be required with respect to this paper or credit any overpayment to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 103213-00032.

Respectfully submitted,



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